

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ALLEN AND LINDA  
ERICKSON OF KALISPELL

**HON. GREG GIANFORTE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Allen and Linda Erickson of Kalispell for their commitment to local veterans, and their families, through the North West Montana Veterans Service Center.

The nonprofit organization was born from Allen's vision to serve Montana veterans. He organized and executed a two-day event, Stand Down, to provide supplies and services to homeless veterans. The now annual Stand Down event led to the creation of the Veterans Service Center, which Allen founded and leads as president. The service center includes a food pantry, a thrift store, and medical equipment loans—all tailored to serve veterans.

Allen and Linda opened the Food Pantry in 2002 and have helped organize the community to provide over 156,000 pounds of food to those in need. They have helped provide food to over 2,000 veteran households and over 500 children.

The Veterans Thrift Store provides services such as "move in" assistance, basic furniture, and seasonal clothing. The service center also includes access to shower and laundry facilities for homeless veterans in the community.

In addition to the Stand Downs and the North West Montana Veterans Service Center, the Ericksons have been working on creating Camp Ponderosa Veterans Retreat. The live-in treatment facility will provide veterans with counseling and group therapy. Similar to the Stand Downs, the facility will offer a community for veterans battling homelessness to learn job skills and apply for jobs.

The Ericksons have spent so much of their time dedicated to making this vision become a reality. With the help of countless volunteers and a generous anonymous donor, the camp will become a place for veterans to heal, recover, and rebuild.

Madam Speaker, for their selfless work to provide greater opportunity for our veterans, I recognize Allen and Linda Erickson of Kalispell for their spirit of Montana.

WELCOME GRACE MARGUERITE  
MARTIN

**HON. HALEY M. STEVENS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Amanda Martin and James Martin of Royal Oak, Michigan, on the birth of their new baby girl, Grace Marguerite Martin. Grace Marguerite Martin was born on September 16, 2019, at Ascension St. John

Hospital in Detroit, Michigan at 10:54 a.m. Grace weighed eight pounds and six ounces and measured 20 and 8/10 inches long.

I would also like to congratulate Grace's grandparents, Kathryn and Mark Higgins of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, Heather and Matthew Martin of Wilmington, North Carolina, Barbara Kortas of Warren, Michigan, and John Ponczocha of Wyandotte, Michigan, as well as her great grandmother, Marguerite Gore, of Grosse Point Woods, Michigan. Congratulations to the entire family as they welcome their newest addition of pure pride and joy.

HONORING MARIAH COLLINS AND  
HANNAH MCJESSY FOR THEIR  
LIFE-SAVING EFFORTS

**HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and thank University of Cincinnati nursing students Mariah Collins and Hannah McJessey for their life-saving assistance to the victim of a tragic drive-by shooting on Short Vine Street in April.

Mariah and Hannah were walking on Short Vine Street when the shooting occurred. After witnessing a man fall to the ground, they leapt into action and used a belt from a bystander as a tourniquet to slow the victim's bleeding until he was able to be transported to UC Medical Center for care.

Mariah and Hannah are heroes. I am proud to see them recognized for their extraordinary courage and actions. I can think of no two recipients more deserving of the certificate of merit from the American Red Cross than these two outstanding women and future nurses.

I wish them both the best of luck in their medical careers.

HONORING HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
DEPUTY SANDEEP SINGH  
DHALIWAL

**HON. DAN CRENSHAW**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Harris County Sheriff Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal, who was tragically and senselessly murdered in the line of duty while serving the Houston community.

Deputy Dhaliwal's life was devoted to service—to his family, his community, and the residents of Harris County.

Deputy Dhaliwal helped coordinate disaster relief efforts after Hurricane Harvey. He worked with at-risk youth to improve their lives. He recently expressed a desire to start a free food bus to help feed the homeless, because he could not imagine people in his com-

munity going hungry. In the days before his passing, he expressed his dream of creating a fund for first responders and fallen heroes, which UNITED SIKHS will carry on in his name.

Deputy Dhaliwal's service extended beyond his own community. He recently returned from volunteering in Puerto Rico, where he assisted in the recovery efforts after Hurricane Maria. He also recently visited his ancestral village in Punjab to deliver water and other necessities to farmers during a drought.

Deputy Dhaliwal was the first Sikh deputy in the Harris County Sheriff's Department's history to wear the Sikh articles of faith, including his dastaar (turban), kesh (unshorn hair), and kara (steel bracelet) on duty, breaking down the barrier between religious observance and uniformed service. He was proud—and his community was proud of him—for receiving his historic religious accommodation to serve. He was a role model for Sikh Americans nationwide who are interested in a career of service to our nation.

Deputy Dhaliwal was known for his warm and welcoming personality. He was always willing to go out of his way to make the person with whom he was speaking feel respected.

Deputy Dhaliwal was especially warm with children. Since the day of his final patrol, many parents have posted videos of Deputy Dhaliwal interacting with their children. They all ended with a warm hug.

As a Houstonian, I am heartbroken over the loss of Deputy Dhaliwal, but as with every tragedy in my hometown, I am proud to see the community come together in the face of adversity. While this display of compassion does not come close to replacing the husband, father, and son his family lost, it is a small way of showing how much Houston appreciates Deputy Dhaliwal and his contributions to our community and the inspiration he created for Sikhs who want to serve our nation. He was a trailblazer and a hero.

I urge all who hear and read this to take a moment to remember the life of Deputy Dhaliwal. The world would be a better place if we all lived by the example Deputy Dhaliwal set.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL  
SCOTT MCFARLANE'S DEDICATED  
SERVICE IN THE U.S. ARMY

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and dedicated service of Door County Veteran Service Officer, Colonel Scott A. McFarlane.

Colonel McFarlane spent 30 years in the U.S. Army in both active and reserve service. While enlisted, he attended numerous specialized military schools, expanding his ability to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

further serve our nation. His first deployment was in support of Operation Desert Storm as the Commander of Eagle Troop, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Colonel McFarlane was later deployed as a reservist to Iraq in 2005.

In addition to his deployments abroad, he served as Brigade Commander of Future Combat Systems at Fort Knox, Kentucky and as Deputy Commander for Mobilization at Fort McCoy. Colonel McFarlane's service earned him the Bronze Star with "V" device, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

In 2006, Colonel McFarlane was named the Door County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO). Prior to being named CVSO, Colonel McFarlane assisted veterans as the Regional Coordinator for the State of Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs and at King Veterans Home. His dedication to country, service, and his fellow veterans consistently shows throughout his career. During his 30-year career in the U.S. Army, Colonel McFarlane served as CVSO for 13 years, serving 6 of those years during multiple deployments.

As we pause to look back on the impact Colonel McFarlane left on the those he served, it is without a doubt that his commitment to those he served, his devotion to his fellow veterans, and his love for his country left a lasting impression. Upon retiring as CVSO, he will enjoy spending more time with his wife Cori, his children, and his grandchildren.

Colonel Scott McFarlane's service to this country and to his fellow veterans is unparalleled. Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in thanking Colonel McFarlane for his service to this great nation and his commitment to supporting countless veterans in Wisconsin's 8th Congressional District.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOAN CARPENTER

##### HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of esteemed public servant and community advocate, Joan Carpenter.

A long-time resident of West Contra Costa, Joan graduated from El Cerrito High School and later earned her bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California, Berkeley. After graduation, Joan worked in Contra Costa County's mediation program and helped residents, businesses, and agencies with conflict resolution.

In 1998, Joan joined the Office of Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia, where she has continued to serve West County constituents for the past 21 years. She has worked tirelessly to improve and expand services for seniors, the homeless, infants, and individuals with HIV/AIDS. Joan has served on various community boards such as the Contra Costa Home Health Agency Advisory Board, the West Contra Costa Unified School District School Attendance Review Board, and the Rehabilitation Services of Northern California Executive Board.

An advocate in both her professional and personal life, Joan currently serves on the Ex-

ecutive Board of the West Contra Costa League of Women Voters, Contra Costa County Democratic Central Committee, the National Women's Political Caucus of California, and the California Alliance for Retired Americans. Additionally, she was a founding member of both the Richmond Juneteenth Celebration and the West County Democratic Club.

Joan's colleagues and friends admire her passion for and dedication to the West County community. Please join me in congratulating Joan for her dedicated service, and in wishing her well in retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

##### HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to include in the RECORD a statement from Faces and Voices of Recovery in recognition of National Recovery Month.

#### FACES AND VOICES OF RECOVERY

For 30 years, National Recovery Month has provided an opportunity for communities nationwide to celebrate the fact that recovery from addiction is not only possible, but it is a reality for over 23 million Americans and their families. Faces & Voices of Recovery, representing the organized recovery advocacy movement in the U.S., extends our sincere gratitude to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for sponsoring National Recovery Month and to members of Congress who work tirelessly to listen to the real stories of individuals and families impacted by addiction and those who have found long-term recovery. Together we can find solutions and continue to build on the foundation of Congressional support in recent years to make recovery possible for even more Americans.

#### CONGRATULATING HENRY S. BARBOSA ON RECEIVING THE ORANGE COUNTY CONSERVATION CORP'S LEGACY AWARD

##### HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Henry S. Barbosa as the recipient of the Legacy Award, which will be presented during the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC).

Mr. Barbosa has served for seven years on the Board of OCCC, which is a voluntary work and learn program that provides an opportunity for at-risk and disadvantaged youths, age 18 to 25. Corpsmembers have a chance to earn a living while learning valuable employment skills through job training and attending an on-site charter school.

Mr. Barbosa's long and distinguished record of service to his community stretches well beyond his time with OCCC. His legal career began as a Deputy District Attorney for Los Angeles County and continued over 27 years

in private practice, primarily representing cities and other public agencies throughout California. Mr. Barbosa also acted as Assistant General Counsel to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

In recognition of his community leadership, Mr. Barbosa was designated as a member of the Los Angeles Board of Police Commission's Blue Ribbon Panel to analyze the causes of and response to the Rampart area police corruption scandal. He was an elected public official for 10 years, serving as the President and a Director of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District representing Rowland Heights and as a member of the Board for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Mr. Barbosa was appointed to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee that developed statewide regulations for landfills management.

Mr. Barbosa continues to advocate for inclusion in our communities. He has served for 10 years as Vice-Chair of the National Hispanic Media Coalition, a nation-wide advocacy group for greater access by minorities in film and broadcast media.

I thank Mr. Barbosa for his leadership and commitment to service and congratulate him on this well-deserved award.

#### HONORING AUGUSTUS BURNS ELKINS II

##### HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Augustus Burns Elkins II, an Administrative Law judge in my district, who on September 30, 2019 retired after 35 years of public service.

Judge Elkins' service is one of dedication to his home state of North Carolina and the nation. He worked as Staff Judge Advocate in the United States Air Force Reserves at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina, achieving the rank of Lt. Colonel. He also served as the Deputy Director of the North Carolina Department of Administration Motor Fleet Management and as Senior Managing Attorney for North Carolina's Governor's Council for Persons with Disabilities. His retirement from the Office of Administrative Hearings marks the conclusion of 19 years of service to that office.

Judge Elkins' tenure was distinguished by a commitment to ensuring accessibility to services and support for people with disabilities. He is regarded as a leading expert in North Carolina on both the Americans with Disabilities Act and Individuals with Disability Act. Recently, he was honored with the 2018 Distinguished Service Award by the Exceptional Children Division of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Judge Elkins is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association and was certified as a Judge Advocate by the Air Force Management and Leadership School. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was inducted as a member of Phi Beta Kappa before earning his Juris Doctor from Wake Forest University School of Law.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Judge Augustus Burns

Elkins II on his retirement and exemplary service to North Carolina.

# RECOGNIZING THE RETURN TO OUR EL PASO ROOTS REUNION

## HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Return to Our El Paso Roots Reunion. This reunion, which originally started as a decennial reunion of the Douglass Grammar and High School alumni, will honor the contributions and heritage of the African American community in El Paso, Texas.

There is special importance in passing down the rich history and culture that we experience throughout our lives and this event seeks to do exactly that. The reunion serves as an opportunity for participants to share stories, explore the growth of El Paso's African American community, and support the University of Texas at El Paso's Black Alumni Network (UBAN) and the McCall Neighborhood Center; both fundamental to El Paso's history and our enduring commitment to upholding civil rights in our community and across the United States.

As a native El Pasoan, it is an honor to recognize the Return to our El Paso Roots Reunion in the House of Representatives. I commend their work and contributions to our community and wish them a successful series of events.

# IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF ABHEY KAPPAMAMMOOTIL VARUGHESE

## HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable life of Abhey Kappamammootil Varughese.

Abhey was born on July 29, 1962 to K.T. and Chinnamma Varughese in Kerala, India. He was the youngest of four siblings and was greatly loved by his immediate and extended family. Abhey loved to learn and excelled throughout his grade school years. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Kerala. After immigrating to America, he proudly worked as a research and development chemist for much of his career.

Abhey and his wife Lishba were married on July 29, 1987. He and Lishba resided in Waterford, Michigan and celebrated over 30 years of marriage together.

Abhey passed away on June 30, 2019 surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife Lishba, his son and daughter-in-law Jeremiah and Jincy Varughese, his daughter and son-in-law Hannah and Nathan Gyani, and his newest granddaughter, Ranni Varughese.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in reflecting on the life of Abhey Kappamammootil Varughese and his many contributions to his community in Southeast Michigan.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE JUDGE HOWARD F. SACHS

## HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Honorable Judge Howard F. Sachs' service and commitment to justice throughout his forty years on the bench. Judge Sachs has spent his entire career advancing the cause of justice in his hometown of Kansas City, Missouri and throughout Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

A lifelong Kansas Citian, Judge Sachs was born in 1925 to Alex and Rose Sachs. Judge Sachs attended Southwest High School in Kansas City's Brookside neighborhood before serving the country in the Pacific Theatre as a Naval Electrical Technician's Mate aboard the U.S.S. *South Dakota*. While he was anchored in Tokyo Bay on Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz's Flag Ship, the Japanese signed the terms of surrender, ending World War II. Judge Sachs was there, serving his country, during this significant moment in history. Upon discharge from the military, Judge Sachs attended Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, where he received his bachelor's degree and graduated valedictorian of his class in 1947. In 1950, Judge Sachs received his Juris Doctor with honors from Harvard Law School.

After completing law school, Judge Sachs returned to his hometown of Kansas City and was a law clerk for the Honorable Albert A. Ridge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri from 1950 to 1951. While clerking for Judge Ridge, Judge Sachs was assigned the well-known Swope Park Swimming Pool case, which challenged the constitutionality of segregated municipal pools in Kansas City. He contributed to the opinion siding with the argument made by the NAACP's chief attorney at the time, Thurgood Marshall, that segregated public swimming pools violated the constitution of the United States. Though this case was profoundly significant, the work of Judge Sachs was only beginning. During his private practice in the 1950s, a tumultuous time for race relations in America, Judge Sachs served as Chairman of the Board of the Urban League of Greater Kansas City and helped orchestrate the admission of women and African American lawyers into the Kansas City Bar Association. In 1962, Judge Sachs drafted the ordinance that finally ended segregated public accommodations in Kansas City, Missouri. Judge Sachs also was a force for change via the significant leadership positions he held within the community, serving as a member of the Kansas City Commission on Human Relations and as President of the Jewish Community Relations Bureau.

After thirty years in private practice, Judge Sachs was nominated for his position on the recommendation of Senator Thomas F. Eagleton, appointed by President Jimmy Carter, and took office in October 1979, making him the first native-born Kansas Citian to serve in the Western District of Missouri. When Judge Sachs was confirmed, he was the first Jewish district judge to sit within the Eighth Circuit in nearly one hundred years. In 1990, Judge Sachs served as chief judge of the court and

took senior status in 1992. While on the bench, Judge Sachs has overseen numerous noteworthy cases, from ruling that inmates had a right to marriage in 1984—a case which eventually reached the Supreme Court—to the writing of a lower court ruling in *Mistretta* that challenged the constitutionality of the Sentencing Commission and produced federal sentencing guidelines. Even in his fortieth year on the bench, Judge Howard F. Sachs continues to maintain a significant docket.

Throughout his career, Judge Sachs has received noteworthy public recognition including numerous awards from the Lawyers Association of Kansas City, the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, the Truman Award for Public Service, the Difference-Maker Award from the Urban League of Greater Kansas City, and the designation of "Judge Howard F. Sachs Day" on September 26, 2019 by the city of Kansas City, Missouri, in recognition of forty years of distinguished service on the Federal Judiciary.

Judge Howard F. Sachs' reputation equals impressive his legal career. He is widely-known for his unparalleled devotion to the legal profession and his well-analyzed, clearly expressed opinions rooted in the bedrock of justice. Distinguished by his intellectual interest, faithfulness to precedent, and reserved demeanor, Judge Sachs has established an inspirational legacy steeped in justice, fairness, and due process. To this day, at ninety-four years old, he remains as veracious and committed to his duties as his first day on the bench.

Madam Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in celebrating Judge Howard F. Sachs' forty years serving as a U.S. District Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri. Let us honor his unrelenting commitment to the American people, and the rule of law.

# HONORING THE SERVICE OF GUY SWANGER

## HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of long-time law enforcement officer and community advocate, Guy Swanger.

In January 2011, Chief Swanger was sworn in as the Concord Police Chief, taking command of a 154-member department in a city of 127,000 residents. An advocate for families and children, Chief Swanger played a crucial part in bringing the Central County Family Justice Center to Concord to provide support to domestic violence victims.

Prior to joining the Concord Police Department, Chief Swanger spent 26-years with the San Diego Police Department. In that role, he served as Executive Director of the San Diego Family Justice Center under the Office of the Mayor. He also co-authored *Managing Innovation in Policing: The Untapped Potential of the Middle Manager*, which has been utilized and taught at many command colleges and universities.

In addition to his position with the Concord Police Department, he currently serves as a

board member for the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and is a member of the State of California AARP Livable Communities Committee.

Chief Swanger and his wife, Lora, have three children: Matt, Cameron, and Hayley. I am grateful for Chief Guy Swanger's dedicated service, and wish him great luck and joy in his retirement.

# INTRODUCTION OF PROTECTING FEDERAL AGENCIES AND EMPLOYEES FROM POLITICAL INTERFERENCE ACT

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Protecting Federal Agencies and Employees from Political Interference Act, which would require an act of Congress before any federal agency headquarters may be moved out of the National Capital Region (NCR). My bill would require that the headquarters of any agency located in the NCR on the date of the introduction of this bill remain in the NCR absent subsequent legislation. This bill is cosponsored by Representatives ANTHONY BROWN and JAMIE RASKIN.

The Trump administration has already begun moving agencies out of the NCR to the detriment of federal employees, their families and the work of these agencies. Employees who work in agency headquarters fulfill the indispensable role of keeping Congress and the president informed of agency activities. Congress cannot do its work to write laws and engage in vital oversight without the unvarnished facts that nonpartisan agencies provide. In fact, we have already seen the negative impacts of these relocation efforts. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has announced that it will be moving its headquarters staff to Grand Junction, Colorado, where agency staff will share office space with a Chevron corporate office, a state oil and gas association and an independent natural gas exploration company.

As for the Department of Agriculture's relocation efforts, two-thirds of impacted highly specialized employees will not relocate to Kansas City, retiring early or quitting instead. Preliminary reports suggest similarly low retention rates for BLM staffers asked to relocate west. While agency leadership touts these moves as cost effective, the work of the agency suffers when experienced personnel leave and relocation efforts appear to favor special interests.

Unless measures like the Protecting Federal Agencies and Employees from Political Interference Act are taken to stop agencies from relocating, the federal government will lose more employees and agencies will be unable to perform critical tasks, like assisting Congress in vital oversight.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was on official business in my district (LA-03). Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 541; nay on Roll Call No. 542; nay on Roll Call No. 543; yea on Roll Call No. 544; yea on Roll Call No. 545; nay on Roll Call No. 546; nay on Roll Call No. 547; yea on Roll Call No. 548; nay on Roll Call No. 549; nay on Roll Call No. 550; yea on Roll Call No. 551; nay on Roll Call No. 552; nay on Roll Call No. 553; yea on Roll Call No. 554; and nay on Roll Call No. 555.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call vote 548, I was in the Chamber but was unable to execute my vote. I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 548.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on September 27, 2019, I was not able to cast my votes during the vote series due to personal matters in Michigan. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted: "aye" on Roll Call No. 555: H. Res. 603—Raising a question of the privileges of the House; "yea" on Roll Call No. 554: H.R. 3722—the Joint Task Force to Combat Opioid Trafficking Act; and "yea" on Roll Call No. 553: S.J. Res. 54—A joint resolution relating to a national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019.

## HONORING THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE SPRING FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HON. DAN CRENSHAW

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of the Spring Fire Department, a public safety agency that has come a long way in its 66-year history, but never so much as in the past decade.

For the first few decades, local residents and businesses passed the hat, and volunteers manned the donated and frequently pre-owned, equipment.

As Spring has evolved from a rural railroad stop into a Houston suburb, the fire department has grown alongside the community. In 1997, Spring Fire began employing profes-

sional firefighters to supplement their volunteers during the daytime hours.

Meeting the expectations of a rapidly growing population is a challenge they meet every day. Six of Spring's nine fire stations were built this decade. Station 74 is the last of the new stations to open for service.

Every day, the men and women of the Spring Fire Department provide fire suppression, emergency medical response, and more to over 152,000 people in 62 square miles of northern Harris County.

From a fire department where volunteers heard the siren and rushed to a station to pick up a fire engine, Spring has evolved into a combination department that staffs all its nine stations 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Today, the department has a mix of full-time, part-time and volunteer firefighters to answer the calls. With a fleet of over two dozen pieces of fire and rescue apparatus, along with more than a dozen support vehicles, Spring firefighters respond to fires, medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, and highwater rescues.

Built to withstand strong hurricane-force winds, the new Station 74 is already home to an engine and a tanker. Designed with the future in mind, Station 74 will be able to house more fire equipment, an additional crew, and a District Chief in the years to come.

The new Spring Fire Station 74 is a testament to the commitment of the department, their command staff, and the board of Harris County Emergency Services District Number 7 to serve Spring today and in the future.

It is my honor to be part of the Spring Fire Station 74 Grand Opening Celebration on October 5. May God bless these crews putting their lives on the line for this community every day, and may God continue to bless Texas and the United States of America.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, my votes were not recorded on September 27, 2019. I am not recorded because I had to attend to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 553, "yea" on Roll Call No. 554, and "yea" on Roll Call No. 555.

## CONGRATULATING PASTOR JIM GRAFF AND TAMARA GRAFF ON FAITH FAMILY CHURCH'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Jim and Tamara Graff for their over 30 years of serving Faith Family Church.

Faith Family Church began with humble origins as a home Bible Study. In 1989—after favor and growth from the Lord—Faith Family Church called Pastor Jim and Tamara Graff to

the Pastorate with a vision to build a Luke 14 church where people could find help, hope, and a family. On Easter Sunday 1998, Faith Family Church dedicated a new sanctuary and ministry campus with a vision to be: "A Church with a heart for all people" that would "Not see through people but help see people through."

Faith Family Church has provided Christ-centered education to equip people for a better life through Faith Academy, Destiny Bible Institute, Celebrate Recovery and hundreds of classes, workshops, and community small groups weekly. Their vision to encourage, empower, and equip overlooked churches in overlooked places has led to the development of the Significant Church Network. Their heart to further the reach of the Gospel led them to open campuses in Hallettsville and Gonzales, Texas.

The people of Faith Family provide help and assistance to the surrounding community through efforts including: Passion Week projects, Backpack outreach, Toys for Tots, Sidewalk Sunday School, Adopt-a-block, and Prison Ministry. Faith Family served as a temporary shelter in 2005 for those fleeing Hurricane Katrina and, in 2017, was a central point to coordinate relief efforts following Hurricane Harvey.

Their commitment to underserved and unreached populations across the world has built 19 Bible Schools, planted 526 churches, supported orphanages in Guatemala, and delivered aid to other parts of the world. Constructed in India, The House of Psalms 1 & 2 rescues girls from sex-trafficking, giving them an education and a new way of life.

President George Washington acknowledged that "religion and morality are indispensable supports" of our nation. For 30 years, Pastor Jim has committed himself to the study and sharing of Scripture, the building up of believers, and the leadership, guidance, and ministry to the staff and people of Faith Family Church. The fruit of his labor has strengthened the moral fabric here in our community and in communities around the world.

I would like to personally congratulate Pastors Jim and Tamara Graff and the people of Faith Family Church for 30 years of faithful ministry together sharing the love of Christ with their community, our nation, and the world.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE WEDDING OF PETER JONES AND JENNIFER HOLCOMB

#### HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peter Jones and Jennifer Holcomb on their remarkable partnership and to wish them well on a lifetime of marriage.

Peter and Jennifer were wed in a beautiful ceremony on July 20th, 2019 in Taos, New Mexico. Surrounded by friends and family, their intimate wedding symbolizes their deep commitment to one another and their future life together.

Their union is the beginning of another journey, as Peter and Jen share an adventurous spirit and a drive to explore the world. With a

loving home that includes their two canines Indy and Bear, they begin their married life.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Peter Jones and Jennifer Holcomb for embarking on a new chapter in their lives and wishing them well on their journey together.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF JEFFREY JEWELL

#### HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Congressmen MIKE THOMPSON, JERRY MCNERNEY, JOHN GARAMENDI, and ERIC SWALWELL to recognize the service of long-time community advocate and veteran, Jeffrey Jewell.

Jeff's commitment to service was apparent throughout his life and career. Upon graduating high school, Jeff enlisted in the Air Force. While stationed in Japan, he taught English to Japanese businessmen and volunteered for Big Brothers, Scouting Leadership, and the Suicide Hotline. After his service, Jeff earned his bachelor's degree in human relations and Master's in Public Administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco. He also later received a Master's in Psychology from Chapman University.

Jeff applied his education and experience in the armed services to aid veterans in the Bay Area. In 1991, he started as a volunteer with veteran organizations in Contra Costa and Solano Counties. Jeff was the past commander in Vacaville of the Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, United Veterans Memorial Association, and past chairman of the Vacaville Veterans Building Association.

In 2001, Jeff began working for the Department of Veterans Affairs Concord Veterans Center as a therapist for combat veterans and for families that lost loved ones in Iraq and Afghanistan. Jeff also served on the Department of Veterans Affairs National Homeless Veterans Working Group and helped veterans find housing and integrate back into society. Jeff became the Director of the Sacramento Veterans Center in March 2010 and returned to the Concord Vet Center a few years later to serve as Director.

Jeff has given so much back to veterans across the country and in Contra Costa County—something our community is incredibly grateful for. I join with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, JERRY MCNERNEY, JOHN GARAMENDI, and ERIC SWALWELL in thanking Jeff for his sacrifices for our nation and wishing him great luck and joy in retirement.

#### HONORING QUAKER SPRINGS METHODIST CHURCH ON THEIR 175TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Quaker Springs Methodist Church on their 175th Anniversary.

This historic church has been a cornerstone of the Quaker Springs community for generations. While the exact date that the original church was constructed is unknown, the incorporation of the Methodist Church in Quaker Springs occurred in November of 1843. The trustees of the church began constructing a new church shortly thereafter, nearby the original, on land purchased in 1842 for fifty dollars. Even today, the great, great grandchildren of some of the original congregation still worship there regularly. The deeply historic and tightly woven fabric of our communities is what makes the North Country so unique and special.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to congratulate the trustees and congregation of Quaker Springs Methodist Church for reaching another historic milestone. I wish them well and look forward to their continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on September 26, 2019 due to travel. Had I been present, I would have voted: "nay" on Roll Call No. 549; "nay" on Roll Call No. 550; "yea" on Roll Call No. 551; "nay" on Roll Call No. 552; "yea" on Roll Call No. 553; "yea" on Roll Call No. 554; and "nay" on Roll Call No. 555.

#### HONORING THE PASSING OF PATRICIA GEIB

#### HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Patricia Geib of Palmyra, Pennsylvania who sadly passed away this week after her third battle with cancer.

Patricia was an incredible spirit whose life touched countless others. She was a devoted employee of the H.B. Reese Candy Co. for many years and would keep working at the Hotel Hershey even after her retirement. She was a dedicated community member whose spirit could never be broken. Patricia faced three bouts with cancer with her characteristic courage and optimism. She never stopped inspiring and caring for the people she loved.

Her life was filled with joy from family, friends, and faith and she will surely be missed by all who knew her. Patricia is survived by a loving family including her husband, Daniel W. Geib of Palmyra; daughter, Danielle Geib, brother, David Burke, stepsons, Andrew (Amy) and Geoff Geib; her grandchildren, Alyssa, Alexis, Aiden and Ashton Geib and her nephew Michael Barley. I ask that the House of Representatives, on behalf of the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth District, join me and her family in remembering the life of Patricia Geib.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, on Friday, September 27, 2019, I was unable to attend roll call votes due to my attendance at a funeral for a close family friend. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Roll Call vote 553, "aye" on Roll Call vote 554, and "aye" on Roll Call vote 555.

## IN RECOGNITION OF DEBBIE JONES

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Debbie Jones as she ends her thirty-four-year term of having served as a Financial Counselor with the House Chief Administrative office. She began her career in the House in May 1985, and over the years has done a remarkable job of ensuring the integrity of House payment transactions. She proved herself to be a strong and thoughtful leader for the Chief Administrative office.

Debbie graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1979 and retires as a Financial Counselor, where she was responsible for reconciling and processing often complex equipment and supply payments for House offices. Debbie had a fine record of public service as she previously served House Clerk Benjamin Guthrie then transitioned to be a Lead Vendor Management Counselor and later Assistant Manager.

I would like to recognize Debbie for being an invaluable asset to the CAO organization, providing excellent customer service to House offices. Her good work ethic, eye for detail, and sense of humor have endeared her to many colleagues and friends.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I am proud of Debbie Jones and all she has accomplished for Massachusetts and beyond. I wish her well in all her future endeavors, following her successful career with the Chief Administrative Office.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARK MORRIS

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of long-time justice advocate and community leader, Mark Morris, PhD.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from Oberlin College in 1964, Mark went on to receive his master's and doctorate degrees from

the University of California, Berkeley in 1965 and 1972, respectively. Dr. Morris focused much of his research and studies on the U.S. justice system and social welfare.

In 1986, Mark founded Mark Morris Associates (MMA) with the goal of developing and reforming the justice system. MMA created projects and programs throughout California, including projects here in the Bay Area and Contra Costa County. These programs typically include analyses of offender populations, corrections interventions, and justice/behavioral health interactions.

Under Mark's leadership, MMA has supported many people within Contra Costa County. His efforts have brought probation officers into schools with system-involved youth, built a volunteer mentorship network, and established a treatment program based on a partnership of various county agencies such as Probation, Mental Health, and Education.

Dr. Morris was a dedicated advocate for social change and justice reform. Please join me in honoring Dr. Mark Morris for a life of service and his contributions to the Bay Area.

## RETIREMENT OF JUDGE BURNS ELKINS, II

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the retirement of Augustus Burns Elkins, II, an Administrative law Judge, who retired on September 30, 2019, from the Office of Administrative Hearings after 35 years of service to the State of North Carolina.

Judge Elkins received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Society, and his Juris Doctorate from Wake Forest University School of Law.

He is a certified Judge Advocate from the Air Force Management and Leadership School and served as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate in the United States Air Force from 1979 to 1984. From 1984 to 2001, he served as a Staff Judge Advocate with the United States Air Force Reserves, having achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. The last 11 years of his Air Force service was spent with the 916 Air Refueling Wing at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

For the State of North Carolina, he has held the positions of Deputy Director of the North Carolina Department of Administration—Motor Fleet Management from 1984 to 1990, and General Counsel and Senior Managing Attorney for North Carolina Governor's Council for Persons with Disabilities (GACPD) from 1990 to 2001. At GACPD, he was recognized as one of the State's leading experts on the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

In 2001, he was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge for the State of North Carolina and had served in this capacity until his retirement on September 30, 2019. He is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association and has served as Chairman of the Administrative Law Section. Judge Elkins was honored

with the 2018 Distinguished Service Award by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division.

I offer my sincere appreciation for Judge Elkins' service to the United States of America and the great state of North Carolina. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Judge Elkins on his retirement and wish him many years of enjoyment with his family.

## HONORING CALFIRE FIREFIGHTER ANDREW MALONEY

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CalFire Firefighter Andrew Maloney. Mr. Maloney served the State of California during his distinguished career with CalFire until he was tragically killed by an intoxicated driver on June 12, 2016. In remembrance of his service, a section of State Route 165 in Los Banos is being dedicated to him.

Mr. Maloney began his career in 2000 as a paid call firefighter in Los Banos for the Merced County Fire Department and in the summer of 2001, worked as a firefighter for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2003, he started his career with CalFire, where he worked with the Los Banos, Santa Nella, and Hornitos Stations.

Throughout his life and career, Mr. Maloney always sought to serve others and make people smile. He participated in multiple efforts to train and educate the public about fire safety programs throughout Merced and Mariposa Counties and worked tirelessly to serve whichever community he was assigned to. His colleagues noted that even when working in 115-degree heat, he would always find a way to make others smile.

In both his personal and professional life, Mr. Maloney was a lover of the outdoors. He hiked both the Pacific Crest and Appalachian trails, loved animals, and was an avid scuba diver. Mr. Maloney's adventurous spirit is remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him.

On June 9, 2016, Mr. Maloney was riding his motorcycle on State Route 165 when he got into a collision with a driver who was distracted and under the influence. Three days later, he lost his life due to the injuries he sustained.

The loss of this longtime Los Banos resident and local hero hit close to home with the Merced County fire community. In honor of Mr. Maloney's lifetime of selfless service, the California legislature has chosen to dedicate State Route 165 between Berkeley Drive and Pioneer Road as the CalFire Firefighter Andrew Maloney Memorial Highway. This will ensure that his memory and lifetime of selfless service will be remembered for future generations.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of CalFire Firefighter Andrew Maloney. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor him as the CalFire Firefighter Andrew Maloney Memorial Highway is dedicated. I wish his family, friends, and all Merced County first responders the best as this section of State Route 165 is dedicated in his honor.

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL  
TERRORISM DOCUMENTATION  
AND ANALYSIS OF THREATS IN  
AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter endorsing H.R. 3106 from the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS,

*Washington, DC, September 26, 2019.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of more than 200 national organizations committed to promoting and protecting the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, we urge you to support the Domestic and International Terrorism Act (DATA Act) (H.R.3106).

Congress should use its oversight and appropriations power to demand that federal agencies make public how it is using its resources to fight white supremacist violence. Congress must pass pertinent legislation like the DATA Act to strengthen laws related to hate violence in this country. The DATA Act will provide Congress information about the federal government's approach to counterterrorism, including data on investigations and prosecutions.

We support the DATA Act because it promotes increased oversight of federal counterterrorism activities without creating enhanced authorities or resources like new offices.

The most recent data from FBI documented that hate crimes against African Americans, Latinos, the LGBTQ community, Native Americans, Jews, and Muslims all increased in 2017. Through the DATA Act, Congress has devised ways to improve federal and state responses to hate violence, including how to address FBI Hate Crime Statistics Act underreporting. The DATA Act comes at a crucial time, when too many people in this country feel unwelcome, unsafe, and marginalized due to acts of terror. There is little question that violence committed against individuals because of their race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity, disability, or sexual orientation remains a serious problem in America. The DATA Act will study these current trends with the intention of combatting hate.

The Leadership Conference applauds Chairman Thompson for placing this key legislation on the suspension calendar for a House vote. The DATA Act will assist Congress in its efforts to elevate the fight against white supremacy and end a climate in which individual perpetrators feel emboldened to act.

Sincerely,

VANITA GUPTA,  
*President & CEO.*

SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT  
BANKING ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters of

endorsement for H.R. 1595, the SAFE Banking Act.

*September 24, 2019.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERLMUTTER: We, the undersigned U.S. trade associations, write to express support for the passage of H.R. 1595, the SAFE Banking Act of 2019, as amended, on the House Floor. Collectively, we represent a majority of the companies, agents, and brokers offering property-casualty, title, and reinsurance (collectively, "insurers") in the U.S. We appreciate your leadership in seeking needed clarity for insurance transactions related to cannabis that are otherwise permissible under state law.

The insurance industry is potentially exposed to liability arising from the differences of the legal treatment of cannabis and cannabis products under federal and state law and regulation at the state level. However, with the addition of key language from H.R. 4074, Clarifying Law Around Insurance Marijuana Act, sponsored by Representative Nydia Velázquez and Representative Steve Stivers, H.R. 1595's safe harbor provisions would prevent federal criminal prosecution of and civil liability for agents, brokers, and insurers, their officers, directors or employees when engaging in the business of insurance in states that have legalized cannabis in some form.

By resolving the legal uncertainty presented by the dueling state and federal treatment of cannabis, the insurance industry can serve both cannabis-related legitimate businesses (CRLBs) and other commercial and personal lines consumers who may have a direct or indirect relationship to state-legalized cannabis, and still be in compliance with the law. Insurers must also continue to satisfy all applicable state statutory or regulatory requirements, such as those pertaining to consumer protections and claims payments.

While the industry still needs additional clarifications to fully resolve the challenges presented by conflicting state and federal cannabis laws, H.R. 1595 is a significant and important step toward legal certainty for our industry.

Again, we greatly appreciate your leadership, and we look forward to continuing to work with you and Congress to ensure our industry is not caught between additional conflicting obligations under federal and state law.

Sincerely,

American Land Title Association (ALTA), American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA), Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA), National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC), National Association of Professional Insurance Agents (PIA), Reinsurance Association of America (RAA), Wholesale & Specialty Insurance Association (WSIA).

THE COUNCIL OF INSURANCE

AGENTS & BROKERS,

*September 23, 2019.*

Re Support for the SAFE Banking Act.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERLMUTTER: On behalf of The Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers ("The Council"), I write to express our strong support for the SAFE Banking Act. This bipartisan legislation, we believe, addresses long-standing obstacles to insurer and broker participation in the cannabis market. We urge Congress to pass this important legislation as soon as possible.

By way of background, The Council represents the largest and most successful em-

ployee benefits and property/casualty agencies and brokerage firms. Council member firms annually place more than \$300 billion in commercial insurance business in the United States and abroad. Council members conduct business in some 30,000 locations and employ upwards of 350,000 people worldwide. In addition, Council members specialize in a wide range of insurance products and risk management services for business, industry, government, and the public.

The need for legal cannabis insurance (spanning many lines of insurance and the entire cannabis supply chain) is only growing and many insurance businesses, including brokers, are anxious to enter the market. The primary obstacle to their entry has been and continues to be the threat of felonious liability under federal law. The Council therefore appreciates your efforts to address federal-law barriers.

The SAFE Banking Act will protect persons engaged in the business of insurance who offer insurance products and services to state-legalized cannabis businesses from liability under federal law. The bill, as amended to include insurance businesses, recognizes that insurance is as essential as banking—if not more so—to security, safety and transparency in the cannabis industry. Lack of insurance for the industry adds layers of unnecessary risk and exposure for businesses, their employees, and their customers.

Again, we very much appreciate your leadership on the SAFE Banking Act. We strongly support the bill and look forward to its passage as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

KEN A. CRERAR,  
*President/CEO.*

RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

*Sacramento, CA, February 14, 2019.*

Re Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019—SUPPORT.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,  
*Member, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERLMUTTER: On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I write to express our support for your "Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019," (Safe Banking Act) which would liberalize our federal banking laws to allow cannabis-related businesses access to financial services. RCRC is an association of California's rural counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from our thirty-six member counties.

California has enacted laws allowing for both medical-use and adult-use of cannabis. In light of the actions of California and other states, it has become apparent there is a need to align federal and state laws when it comes to accessing the banking system. Unfortunately, there is a significant barrier to financial institutions who provide banking services to state- and locally-licensed cannabis businesses as they are subject to criminal prosecution for "aiding and abetting" a federal crime as well as money laundering.

Because current law restricts cannabis businesses from accessing banking services, businesses must operate in an "all cash" scheme, which poses a serious public safety risk. In addition to the Controlled Substances Act, there are a variety of federal banking laws (i.e. the Bank Secrecy Act) which impact the ability of banks to accept monies derived from activities involving cannabis. In February 2014, the Obama Administration issued guidance to financial institutions and the cannabis industry on how the Department of Justice would enforce banking laws related to cannabis. Despite



these guidance memos, most financial institutions refuse to bank cannabis activities and suggest that Congress enact statutes to liberalize the banking laws.

Access to banking remains one of the most significant hurdles facing the cannabis industry and state and local regulatory authorities. In essence, all cannabis-related financial activities are conducted in cash which translates into counties receiving property tax payments in cash, as well as any local regulatory fees and taxes. The current all-cash business also makes it extremely difficult to audit cannabis operators, as well as ensure compliance with various rules and regulations. Most importantly, the all-cash status presents enormous security challenges to all parties involved in the cannabis industry.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support your SAFE Banking Act. If you should have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

PAUL A. SMITH,  
*Vice President, Governmental Affairs.*

BRINK'S, INCORPORATED,  
Dallas, TX, March 25, 2019.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,  
*Chair, Committee on Financial Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on Financial Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIR WATERS AND RANKING MEMBER MCHEMRY: On behalf of Brink's Incorporated, I wanted to share our strong support for H.R. 1595, the "Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019." We believe this legislation addresses much of the uncertainty in the financial services sector about banking and handling of funds sourced from state-regulated cannabis businesses in those states that have legalized cannabis, and helps move toward safer and more secure transport of the cash from those businesses and ultimately the banking of those funds. We wish to thank Representatives Perlmutter, Heck, Stivers and Davidson for their leadership on this issue.

As you may be aware, Brink's is the world's largest cash management company and the global leader in total cash management, secure route-based logistics and payment solutions including cash-in-transit, ATM services, cash management services (including vault outsourcing, money processing and intelligent safe services), and international transportation of valuables. The company has a legacy of 160 years in the business of safely and securely transporting valuables and cash—getting them where they need to be in the safest and most secure manner possible. We are also a vital partner to our customers like banks, helping with the logistics of transporting and processing cash.

Brink's does not take a position in favor or opposed to legalization of cannabis or marijuana. Like our bank customers, Brink's must also ensure that it follows federal laws such as requirements on anti-money laundering, and work with our customers subject to federal bank charters and laws and related statutes. These current ambiguity of these federal laws creates a significant barrier to safe handling of the cash generated by state-sanctioned cannabis businesses, because many banks believe they cannot accept funds from cannabis-related businesses in states that have legalized cannabis in some form, and because there are barriers to safely processing and delivering these funds. The public safety issue in states with legalized cannabis businesses is immediately apparent when thousands and even millions of dollars in cash are being stored and transported without adequate safeguards.

Brink's knows well that storage and transport of cash is a very serious issue, and safety and security are both paramount concerns. If H.R. 1595 were enacted, we believe the law would allow companies like Brink's to safely and securely transport cash to the bank customers in states that have legalized and regulated cannabis. It would ensure that the funds are deposited, traced and any suspicious activity reported to authorities.

Thank you for considering these comments, and for taking steps to address a safety and security issue in those states that have chosen to legalize and regulate cannabis for medical or recreational purposes. We look forward to working with the Committee on these issues and appreciate your consideration of Brink's view on this issue.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. BEECH,  
*Executive Vice President,  
Brink's, Incorporated.*

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
SHOPPING CENTERS,  
New York, NY.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.*

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*Minority Leader, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.*

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
*Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.*

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,  
*Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.*

Hon. MIKE CRAPO,  
*Chairman, Senate Banking Committee,  
Washington, DC.*

Hon. SHERROD BROWN,  
*Ranking Member, Senate Banking Committee,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, LEADERS MCCARTHY, MCCONNELL, AND SCHUMER, CHAIRMAN CRAPO AND RANKING MEMBER BROWN: On behalf of the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), I express strong support for H.R. 1595, the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act, which would allow cannabis-related businesses (including retail tenants and their landlords) in states with existing regulatory structures to access the financial services system. The SAFE Banking Act's protections for ancillary businesses are critical for retail landlords considering leasing space to tenants operating in compliance with federal and state laws governing the emerging legalized cannabis and cannabidiol (CBD) market.

ICSC serves the global retail real estate industry. We provide our 70,000+ member network in over 100 countries with invaluable resources, connections and industry insights, and actively work together to shape public policy. ICSC does not have an official position on the legalization, decriminalization, or prosecution related to the use of cannabis products or illicit drugs. Our support of H.R. 1595 reflects growth in the marketplace associated with numerous states' efforts to legalize cannabis, both recreationally and medically, and the avoidable challenges associated with the unresolved liability to financial institutions and other ancillary businesses related to the broad authority of the Controlled Substances Act.

A total of 34 states, District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands have sanctioned comprehensive, publicly available medical marijuana/cannabis programs. Approved efforts in 12 states allow use of "low THC, high cannabidiol (CBD)" products for medical reasons in limited situations or as a legal defense. Meanwhile, hundreds of licensed and regulated businesses do not have access to the banking or insurance

services and are unable to accept credit cards, deposit revenues, or make use of bank checks to pay rent, payroll, or taxes.

H.R. 1595 would prevent federal banking regulators from punishing banks for working with cannabis-related businesses that are obeying state laws, taking legal action on loans made to those businesses and related businesses, or limiting a depository institution's access to the Deposit Insurance Fund. The bill would also require the Financial Institution Examination Council to develop guidance to help credit unions and banks understand how to lawfully serve cannabis businesses. If enacted, banks would no longer face the threat of federal sanction for working with cannabis-related businesses, including tenants of retail real estate spaces.

Importantly, H.R. 1595 would also protect ancillary businesses, such as commercial landlords and brokers that lease space to cannabis retailers, from being charged with money laundering and other financial crimes. Protections under Section 3 of the bill specifically extend to landlords who may rent or lease to cannabis-related businesses operating within state law. While challenges will remain, this legislation will address the growing legal and financial liabilities for those who accept these businesses as tenants in retail real estate properties.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues on this narrowly-tailored bill that balances public safety with the needs of the emerging legalized cannabis product market. We look forward to working with you on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

BETSY LAIRD,  
*Senior Vice President,  
Global Public Policy.*

MINORITY CANNABIS  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION,  
August 20, 2019.

Re Minority Business Leaders Call for Support of the SAFE Banking Act of 2019.

Majority Leader STENY HOYER,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER HOYER: I am writing on behalf of the Minority Cannabis Business Association (MCBA) in support of the SAFE Banking Act of 2019 which provides a critical first step towards developing an equitable federal cannabis framework. MCBA represents more than 200 minority-owned businesses, entrepreneurs and community leaders from across the United States seeking to create an equitable and responsible cannabis industry. We are the only national trade association dedicated to serving the needs of the minority cannabis businesses and communities disproportionately affected by the lack of access to banking products and services.

Minority-owned businesses make up less than one-fifth of all cannabis businesses. The lack of access to capital is cited as the primary reason for this disparity. Despite benefiting from the aura of diversity surrounding cannabis and the political will of people of color, the industry is overwhelmingly white.

The generations long War on Drugs and systemic economic suppression have made it difficult for minority entrepreneurs to accumulate and access the inter-generational wealth that provides a significant portion of the financing necessary to enter legal cannabis markets. The prohibitive cost of starting a cannabis business, combined with the lack of access to traditional small business financial services, forces entrepreneurs to partner with investors who tend to favor high yield investments and majority-ownership.

Some states and municipalities have created equity programs aimed to facilitate industry participation by those most impacted



by the failed War on Drugs. Unfortunately, these programs are undermined, if not rendered moot, by the lack of access to capital. Traditional funding sources are unavailable to cover the extraordinary start-up costs including license application fees commonly exceeding tens of thousands of dollars and some states require millions in cash escrow or bond. This leaves state equity licensees vulnerable to predatory lending and business practices. Equity applicants and owners give up the rights and benefits of ownership for access to much needed funds and a chance at success. The SAFE Banking Act addresses how current banking laws codify the disproportionately high cost of financing paid by minorities and create inequitable barriers to entry and success.

Furthermore, the large cash transactions, necessary without access to banks, create dangerous burdens for consumers, patients, employees, business owners and their communities. Patients and consumers must carry cash for purchases. Employees and business-owners both bear the risk of

transacting in, storing, and transporting staggering sums of cash. Communities then share the risk created by this cash economy. These risks are amplified in communities with higher crime rates, limited resources, and inconsistent law enforcement. Commonly, these communities have higher concentrations of dispensaries. The number of dispensaries places an undue burden on vulnerable communities and business owners seeking to provide revenue, income, and investment in communities where it is most needed.

MCBA asks you to join us in support of the SAFE Banking Act which addresses the unique business challenges of the cannabis industry that disproportionately impact minority business-owners and our communities. In addition to providing access to capital, the SAFE Banking Act includes additional equity study and data requirements. Federal regulators would be required to provide annual reports to Congress on the availability of access to financial services for minority-owned cannabis businesses and Gov-

ernment Accountability Office (GAO) would be required to carry out a study on the barriers to marketplace entry for minority-owned cannabis businesses. These provisions would provide information to help build an equitable legal cannabis framework.

MCBA urges swift action for the minority entrepreneurs who cannot wait for banking, as market-share is divided among the thirty-percent of well-capitalized big cannabis businesses with access to non-traditional financing. As we work toward legalization and our greater equity goals, we must ensure that generational financial inequities do not continue to shape and color the face of the cannabis industry.

We welcome the opportunity to engage with your office on these issues. Please feel free to contact us for more information or if we may be of any assistance on these matters.

Sincerely,

SHANITA PENNY,

*President,*

*Minority Cannabis Business Association.*